

## SECTION 3 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

*40 CFR 122.34 (b)(2) – At a minimum, comply with state, tribal, and local public notice requirements when implementing a public involvement/participation program. EPA recommends that the public be included in developing, implementing, and reviewing your stormwater management program and that the public participation process should make efforts to reach out and engage all economic and ethnic groups.*

### 3.0 OVERVIEW

Public involvement/participation is important for the development of the SWMP. Involving the public goes hand in hand with a local government's public education efforts and can help accomplish some of the same goals. By encouraging input from diverse economic and cultural groups, there can be beneficial effects on the development of the program. One such benefit is that early and frequent public input can lead to a shorter implementation schedule and greater support for the program. Public involvement and participation can also create more opportunities to gain expertise from interested individuals and other organizations or governmental entities. These added resources could improve the success of the program.

**Table 3.1 BMP and measurable goal summary for Public Involvement and Participation.**

BMP	MEASURABLE GOAL	PERMIT YEAR				
		1	2	3	4	5
Public notice requirements	Comply with public notice requirements	X				
Presentations on stormwater management plan	Schedule presentations as needed	X				
	Inform civic organizations of staff availability	X				
Community programs -Adopt-a-Spot Program -Composting classes -Utilize volunteers to monitor water quality						
	Expand existing program			X		
	Continue existing program	X				
	Develop and implement program			X		

### 3.1 PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

#### Description

When implementing a public involvement/participation program, the City must comply with state, tribal, and local public notice requirements. The general permit itself will be subject to public notice and comment. Sugar Land will also want to provide the typical citizen public notice that similar local programs would require. This may include newspaper or similar publication of intent to be covered under the permit or of availability of the SWMP for review by the public at City Hall, public libraries and/or the municipal website. In addition, public input sessions may be held to acquire community feedback.

**Measurable Goals**

- Publication in the local newspaper prior to council adoption of pre-final and final SWMP
- Availability of pre-final and final SWMP for public review
- Public input sessions prior to council adoption of pre-final and final SWMP

**Costs**

- Labor – Existing City staff
- Equipment/Supplies – Copies of SWMP for public review

**Implementation Schedule**

Public input will be requested during development of the SWMP and intermittently throughout the permit term, if deemed necessary.

**3.2 PRESENTATIONS ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN****Description**

Familiarizing City Council, municipal staff, the regulated community, and the public on the requirements of the program will facilitate implementation of the SWMP. Public presentations will be available upon request to the following groups throughout development and implementation of the SWMP:

- City council
- Municipal staff
- Homeowners associations
- Business associations
- Commercial property owners
- Local service clubs
- Other civic groups

Residents attending these meetings would be invited to give feedback on the SWMP after the presentations. In addition, the City would consider providing streaming video on some of the stormwater presentations in order to make information available to interested residents.

**Measurable Goals**

- Schedule presentations and informational meetings on an as-needed basis.
- Develop a list of civic organizations that may benefit from a presentation on the SWMP and inform them of staff availability.

**Costs**

- Labor – Existing City staff, but additional funds may be needed for overtime pay
- Equipment/Supplies – N/A

### **Implementation Schedule**

Presentations beginning in Permit Year 1 and ongoing throughout the SWMP development and implementation process.

## **3.3 COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Through the following three community programs, Adopt-a-Spot, Composting Classes, and Water Quality Monitoring, residents will develop first-hand knowledge of water quality issues in the Sugar Land community. The City will continue to evaluate opportunities to involve the public through other types of community programs such as grant-funded projects, Eagle Scout projects, grate mate programs, and storm drain markers.

### ***3.3.1 Adopt-A-Spot Program***

#### **Description**

Sugar Land has an existing Adopt-A-Spot program. The purpose of the program is to provide groups within the City of Sugar Land with the opportunity to support and show pride in the community by volunteering to adopt a public area for the purpose of litter reduction and beautification. As part of the SWMP implementation, Sugar Land will extend this program to apply to waterways, ditches, and other stormwater channels.

#### **Measurable Goals**

- Expand program to cover additional locations, specifically waterways, ditches, right of ways, and other stormwater channels.

#### **Costs**

- Labor – Existing City staff
- Equipment/Supplies – Additional Adopt-a-Spot signs

### **Implementation Schedule**

The Adopt-A-Spot program will be expanded in Permit Year 3, and the program will be ongoing through the remaining permit years.

### ***3.3.2 Composting Classes***

#### **Description**

Sugar Land provides regular composting classes to residents at no cost. The classes are held at the City's Yardwise Demonstration Site. The City will continue to hold composting classes in the spring and fall, with a goal of at least 75 participants each year.

**Measurable Goals**

- Hold spring and fall composting classes.

**Costs**

- Labor – Existing City staff
- Equipment/Supplies – N/A

**Implementation Schedule**

Ongoing.

**3.3.3 Utilize Volunteers to Monitor Water Quality****Description**

The purpose of this program is to assist in efforts to give citizens first-hand knowledge of the quality of local water bodies and to provide a cost-effective means of collecting water quality data. The City of Sugar Land will partner with KSLB and/or Texas Watch to train volunteers to monitor water quality. Citizens will be provided with test kits and will be asked to monitor water quality in particular areas on a monthly or quarterly basis. To ensure volunteer data is of high quality, the City will develop quality assurance standards for volunteers, and all volunteers will be required to be certified at least every two years. Volunteer efforts can provide a substantial amount of data on water quality, and this information can be used to determine which local water bodies are at risk and to identify high priority locations for more extensive sampling and analysis.

**Measurable Goals**

- Develop water quality monitoring program by Permit Year 3.
- Test sites regularly for contamination. The targeted number of sites to be tested will be set during program development and will be determined by the number of volunteers participating in the program.

**Costs**

- Labor – Existing City staff
- Equipment/Supplies
  - Kits
  - Training for volunteers
  - Lab analysis

**Implementation Schedule**

The City will develop this program by Permit Year 3 and evaluate the resources needed/available to devote to the program. In Permit Year 3, the City will begin program implementation.